

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 13593 300935Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 /104 W

-----110392 301229Z /50

R 300800Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4411

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

CONSERVENTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BPRO, ENRG, RP, US

SUBJECT:USG WARNINGS ON REED BANK OIL DRILLING

REF: MANILA 11736

1. "BULLETIN TODAY" OF AUGUST 28 CARRIED A FRONT-PAGE
BOXED ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. WARNS AGAINST OIL DRILLING IN
SOUTH CHINA SEA." NEWS STORY HAS A UPI BYLINE OUT OF SINGA-
PORE CITING ARTICLE IN AUGUST EDITION OF THE "PETROLEUM NEWS
OF SOUTHEAST ASIA" MAGAZINE. (NOTE: THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE
WAS WRITTEN BY BERNIE WIDEMAN, A MANILA-BASED FREELANCE
WRITER).

2. THE LEAD PARAGRAPH STATED: BEGIN QUOTE: THE US STATE
DEPARTMENT HAS WARNED A CONSORTIUM OF OIL COMPANIES DRILL-
ING IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT THEY ARE OPERATING IN A CON-
TESTED AREA AND CANNOT EXPECT HELP FROM WASHINGTON IN
DIFFICULTIES, AN OIL MAGAZINE SAID. END QUOTE.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 13593 300935Z

3. THE ARTICLE THEN GOES ON THE REHAHS OIL EXPLORATION
ACTIVITY IN REED BANK AND OFF PALAWAN AND THE AMOCO
INTEREST THERE. IT ALSO DISCUSSES PHILIPPINE AND VIET-
NAMESE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE SPRATLEYS, CITING AN
"ACTIVE MILITARY BUILDUP" AND SAYS, "TWO DOZEN VIETNAMESE
WARSHIPS CONDUCTED EXERCISES IN THE SPRATLEYS AREA LAST

MONTH" (JULY).

4. JAMES MCDONALD, PRESIDENT, AMOCO PHILIPPINES PETROLEUM COMPANY, CALLED EMBOFF AUGUST 29 TO ASK IF THIS ARTICLE, PARTICULARLY THE LEAD PARAGRAPH, REFLECTED ANY NEW INITIATIVES BY THE USG CONCERNING THE AREA. EMBOFF SAID THAT USG GUIDANCE GIVEN TO U.S. FIRMS OPERATING IN AREA REMAINED EXACTLY THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN AMOCO LAST YEAR, AND THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOW, THERE HAD BEEN NO RECENT OCCASION TO REPEAT THAT POSITION TO OTHER U.S. FIRMS. EMBOFF SUGGESTED MCDONALD HAVE AMOCO CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS CONFIRM THIS POINT WITH ITS CONTACTS IN THE DEPARTMENT IF IT WERE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO HIM. EMBOFF TOLD MCDONALD THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED "BULLETIN TODAY" ARTICLE WAS JUST A REHASH OF AN OLD STORY SPRINGING FROM INCREASED INTEREST IN OIL EXPLORATION HERE SINCE THE MOST RECENT CITIES SERVICE DISCOVERY OFF PALAWAN.

5. COMMENT: IN JUNE BERNIE WIDEMAN MADE A TRIP TO PALAWAN AND TALKED WITH COMMODORE FERNANDEZ OF WESCOM. WE PRESUME WIDEMAN ARTICLE RESULT OF THAT VISIT DURING WHICH FERNANDEZ WAS EXTREMELY EFFUSIVE AND INFORMATIVE. (SEE LANGE/WIDEMAN/FERNANDEZ MEMCON OF JUNE 6, 1977).
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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, OFFSHORE DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977089/aaaaagxv.tel
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TAGS: BPRO, ENRG, RP, US
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